



# Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 5120.2

August 12, 1985

Certified Current as of November 21, 2003

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Incorporating Through Change 2, May 13, 1996

ASD(RA)

SUBJECT: Reserve Forces Policy Board

References: (a) DoD Directive 5120.2, subject as above, October 13, 1973 (hereby canceled)

(b) Section 113(d) of title 10, United States Code

(c) Section **10301**(a)(b)(c) of title 10, United States Code

(d) Section 113(c)(3) of title 10, United States Code

## 1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive:

1.1. Reissues reference (a).

1.2. In accordance with the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense by reference (b), this Directive defines the mission, functions, membership, relationships, and administration of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, established in the Office of the Secretary of Defense by reference (c).

## 2. MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

2.1. The Board:

2.1.1. As provided in 10 U.S.C. **10301**(c) (reference (c)), the Board, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) (ASD(RA)), is the principal policy advisor to the Secretary of Defense on matters relating to the Reserve

components. It is the in-house means by which the Secretary of Defense and others may consult non-active duty Reservists, the appropriate Assistant Secretaries of the Military Departments, and the designated Regular Service officers, all members of the Board.

2.1.2. The Board shall examine the following matters:

2.1.2.1. Multi-Service policy issues affecting the Reserve components, or their members, referred to it by the Secretary of Defense and other DoD officials, the Chairman, or a member of the Board.

2.1.2.2. Recommendations referred to the Board by the National Guard and Reserve Policy Committees and Boards of the Military Departments.

2.1.3. In its advisory role as an independent source of counsel, the Board shall evaluate proposals and actions or situations concerning the Reserve components that would:

2.1.3.1. Create, change, or discontinue pertinent laws, directives, instructions, or other guidance media;

2.1.3.2. Alter the missions or the composition, operation, readiness, or other essential elements of one or more Reserve components; or

2.1.3.3. Impact directly upon the Reserve components in such matters as cultural and environmental issues, and public and Reservist attitudes.

2.1.4. As required by 10 U.S.C. 113(c)(3) (reference (d)), the Board shall provide the Secretary of Defense with an annual report on Reserve component programs, for submission to the President and the Congress. This report shall include a review of the provisions of Title 10 of the United States Code that are applicable to officers of the Reserve components.

2.2. The Chairman:

2.2.1. The Chairman, who is to be a civilian appointed by the Secretary of Defense, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

2.2.2. The Chairman shall have the authority to take executive action when:

2.2.2.1. Such action is in consonance with this Directive and is in implementation of plans, policies or programs approved by the Board; or

2.2.2.2. The action taken does not require Board approval.

2.2.3. The Chairman shall report to the Board all executive action taken.

2.3. The Military Executive:

2.3.1. The Military Executive, who shall be a general or flag officer of a Reserve component, shall be designated by the Chairman with the approval of the Secretary of Defense. He or she shall serve as the military adviser to the Chairman and as the executive officer of the Board. He or she shall routinely perform such services as are specified by the Chairman.

2.3.2. The Military Executive shall be a member of the Board, but without vote.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. The membership of the Board shall be as prescribed in 10 U.S.C. *10301*(a)(b) (reference (c)).

3.2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments, in recommending Reserve component officers for appointment to the Board, shall give priority consideration to the nominees' Reserve and other military experience, their civilian backgrounds, and to a proper geographical representation. Officers so recommended must be members of the Ready Reserve and be able to remain so during their term of appointment. Appointment of Reserve component officer members shall be for a term of 3 years, and no Reserve component officer member may be reappointed until at least 3 years have elapsed from the date of his or her separation from the Board.

3.3. The Secretary of Transportation may designate two officers of the Coast Guard, regular or Reserve, to serve as voting members of the Board, as provided in reference (c).

4. RELATIONSHIPS

4.1. The Board is encouraged to consider and render advice on questions and issues the members consider appropriate to perform the functions prescribed in this Directive. Their internal deliberations may be privileged as they consider confidentiality to be desirable from the standpoint of either security or organizational

independence.

4.2. The Chairman and Military Executive are authorized to request the Military Departments, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, or the Defense Agencies to provide the Board timely information concerning such plans, programs, and recommendations as may be necessary to facilitate accomplishment of the Board's missions and responsibilities and enable the Board to render its advice early enough in the policy development process to make it useful.

4.3. The Board is expected to establish and maintain communications with individuals and agencies outside the Department of Defense, whether governmental, public, or private, as are appropriate and necessary for the accomplishment of the Board's mission. When the Board initiates a new subject of inquiry with any Government Agency outside the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard, or congressional oversight committees, or the Board receives a request for its advice from any Agency outside the Department of Defense, the Board shall inform the ASD(RA) of the general subject under consideration and the identity of the Government Agency involved.

4.4. The annual report of the Board, required by 10 U.S.C. 113(c)(3) (reference (d)), to the President and the Congress, shall be submitted to the General Counsel of the Department of Defense for review for legal sufficiency before being forwarded to the Secretary of Defense through the ASD(RA).

## 5. OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION

5.1. The Board normally shall meet four times annually, and at such other times as may be required, at the call of the Chairman.

5.2. Board affairs shall be conducted independently, but with due regard to the statutory responsibilities of DoD officials for the conduct and operation of Reserve component programs.

5.3. The Board shall establish and operate under its own Rules of Procedure.

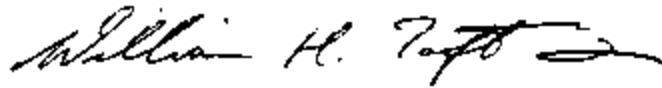
5.4. The Office of the Secretary of Defense shall provide such personnel, facilities, administrative services, and other support as are essential to the Board's effective operation.

5.5. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the National Guard Bureau shall designate appropriate officers for continuing liaison duties with the

Board. The Coast Guard shall be invited to designate such an officer. These officers shall perform staff duties, administrative services, liaison with their respective Departments, and related duties, as required by the Chairman or Military Executive.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William H. Taft, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William H. Taft, IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense